

January 5, 2010

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

Securities Investor Protection Corporation,

Plaintiff,

vs.

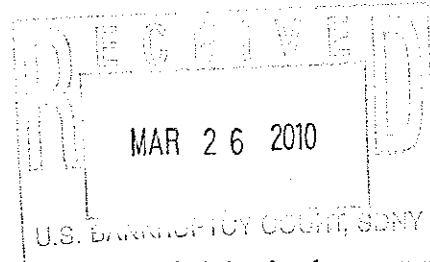
Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities  
LLC,

Defendant.

**Bankruptcy Case No. 08-01789 (BRL)**

SIPA Liquidation

**OBJECTION TO TRUSTEE'S  
DETERMINATION OF CLAIM**



Ronald Barsanti Revocable Trust hereby objects to the denial of claim in the  
Trustee's Determination of Claim dated December 8, 2009,<sup>1</sup> and states as follows:

1. On 9-1-08 Claimant made an initial investment of \$250,000.00 into Rye Select Broad Market Prime Fund, L.P. (the "Rye Fund"). As of October 31, 2008, the statement from the Rye Fund valued the investment at \$ 250,000.00.
2. All of the funds which Claimant invested in the Rye Fund were invested in Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC ("BLMIS").
3. On or about December 11, 2008, the above-captioned liquidation proceeding was commenced against BLMIS, pursuant to the Securities Investor Protection Act ("SIPA"), 15 U.S.C. § 78aaa *et seq.*

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<sup>1</sup> A copy of the Trustee's Determination of Claim is attached as **Exhibit A**.

4. On or about December 15, 2008, jurisdiction of this matter was transferred to the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, and Irving Picard was appointed as Trustee.

5. Pursuant to the SIPA, Trustee Picard was directed to oversee the liquidation of the assets of BLMIS and to process all claims against Defendant BLMIS, and the Debtor Bernard L. Madoff. *See* 15 U.S.C. § 78fff-1(a).

6. By order of this Court dated December 23, 2008, the Trustee was directed to disseminate notice and claim forms to all former BLMIS customers setting forth claim-filing deadlines. *See* Order entered at Dkt. No. 12. The Order directed the Trustee to “notify such claimant by mail of his determination that the claim is disallowed, in whole or in part, and the reason therefore . . .”

7. In February 2009, prior to the claims filing deadline, Claimant duly filed a customer claim with the Trustee in the amount of \$250,000.00. This claim has apparently been designated as Claim No. 006402.

8. By Notice of Trustee’s Determination of Claim dated December 8, 2009, the Trustee notified Claimant that its claim had been denied on the following basis:

Based on a review of available books and records of BLMIS by the Trustee’s staff, you did not have an account with BLMIS. Because you did not have an account, you are not a customer of BLMIS under SIPA as that term is defined at 15 U.S.C. § 78lll(2). Accordingly, your Claim for securities and/or a credit balance is **DENIED**.

9. By this Notice of Objection, Claimant does hereby formally object to the determination by the Trustee.

10. First Objection: The Trustee’s determination fails to comply with the December 23, 2008 Order of the Court which directed the Trustee to satisfy customer’s

9. By this Notice of Objection, Claimant does hereby formally object to the determination by the Trustee.

10. First Objection: The Trustee's determination fails to comply with the December 23, 2008 Order of the Court which directed the Trustee to satisfy customer's claims in accordance with the Debtor's books and records or which "are otherwise established to the satisfaction of the Trustee." *See* Dkt. No. 12 at 5. The Claimant's claim included proper documentation of the amount owed to Claimant. Accordingly, the claim should be allowed in full.

11. Second Objection: Contrary to the determination of the Trustee, Claimant is a "customer" as provided for by the Securities Investor Protection Act. As such, it is entitled to receive SIPC insurance. Section 7811(2) of the SIPA defines "customer" as "any person who has deposited cash with the debtor for the purpose of purchasing securities."<sup>2</sup> *Sec. Investor Prot. Corp. v. Bernard L. Madoff Inv. Secs. LLC*, 401 B.R. 629, 635 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2009) ("the mere act of entrusting . . . cash to the debtor for the purpose of effecting securities transactions . . . triggers customer status . . .") (alterations in original)

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<sup>2</sup> The statute provides that:

The term "customer" of a debtor means any person (including any person with whom the debtor deals as principal or agent) who has a claim on account of securities received, acquired, or held by the debtor in the ordinary course of its business as a broker or dealer from or for the securities accounts of such person for safekeeping, with a view to sale, to cover consummated sales, pursuant to purchases, as collateral security, or for purposes of effecting transfer. The term "customer" includes any person who has a claim against the debtor arising out of sales or conversions of such securities, and any person who has deposited cash with the debtor for the purpose of purchasing securities, . . .

15 U.S.C. § 7811(2).

(citations omitted). Apparently, the Trustee has taken the position that the fact that Claimant deposited funds with BLMIS indirectly is fatal to its claim as a “customer” under SIPA. This position is incorrect.

12. Under SIPA, the term “customer” is a term of art, and does not have its ordinary and customary meaning. *Arford v. Miller*, 239 B.R. 698, 701 (S.D.N.Y. 1999), *aff’d sub nom. In re Stratton Oakmont*, 210 F.3d 420 (2d Cir. 2000) (citations omitted). It is to be construed within the context of the definitional section of SIPA, and as interpreted by the courts.

13. The statute does not require that one have a direct relationship with the subject broker to be considered a “customer” under SIPA. All the plain language of the statute requires is that (a) the claim against the debtor arose out of sales or conversion of securities, and (b) that the customer made deposits with the fiduciary of cash or securities. *See* 15 U.S.C. § 7811(2). The legislative history of SIPA supports this interpretation.

14. SIPA was enacted by Congress as remedial legislation to be liberally construed to effect the purpose of protecting the investments of customers of broker-dealers and investment advisers. *See In re First State Securities Corp.*, 34 B.R. 492, 496 (Bankr. S.D. Fla. 1983) (citing *Tcherepnin v. Knight*, 389 U.S. 332 (1967)). The fundamental purpose of SIPA was to protect the public in the event that the entities with whom they dealt with went bankrupt, or were otherwise unable to satisfy their customer agreements. *See SEC v. S.J. Salmon & Co., Inc.*, 375 F. Supp. 867, 871 (S.D.N.Y. 1974) (“The principal purpose of the [Securities Investor Protection] Act was to protect investors against financial losses arising from the insolvency of their brokers.”) (citing H. Rep. No. 91-1613, at 1970 U.S. Code Cong. and Adm. News p. 5254 et seq.).

15. The statute does not mandate that the funds or securities received by the debtor were received “directly” by the customer. Had this been a requirement, Congress would have so required it. Indeed, Section 9 of SIPA covering advances by SIPC to the bankruptcy trustee states that:

no advance shall be made by SIPC to the trustee to pay or otherwise satisfy any net equity claim of any customer who is a broker or dealer or bank, other than to the extent that it shall be established to the satisfaction of the trustee, from the books and records of the debtor or from the books and records of a broker or dealer or bank, or otherwise, that the net equity claim of such broker or dealer or bank against the debtor arose out of transactions for customers of such broker or dealer or bank . . . in which event each such customer of such broker or dealer or bank shall be deemed a separate customer of the debtor.

15 U.S.C. § 78fff-3(a)(5) (emphasis added).

16. Whether a claimant is a “customer” does not depend upon to whom he or she or it “handed her cash or made her check payable, or even where the funds were initially deposited.” *In re Old Naples Sec., Inc.*, 223 F.3d 1296, 1302 (11th Cir. 2000). “Instead, the question is whether there was ‘actual receipt, acquisition or possession of the property of a claimant by the brokerage firm under liquidation.’” *Id.* (citing *In re Stalvey & Assoc., Inc.*, 750 F.2d 464, 469 (5th Cir. 1985) (quoting *SEC v. Kenneth Bove & Co.*, 378 F. Supp. 697, 700 (S.D.N.Y. 1974)). Here, Claimant can show that there was “actual receipt, acquisition or possession” of its property by the Debtor.

17. As this cause of action arose in New York, and New York law is applicable, Claimant is entitled to interest on all of the funds deposited with BLMIS at the statutory rate. New York CPLR § 5004, New York General Oblig. L. § 5-501 *et seq.* Furthermore, as the actions by BLMIS arose out of conversion and fraud, Claimant is entitled to pre-judgment

interest. New York CPLR § 5001(a). *See also Singapore Recycle Centre Pte Ltd. v. Kad Int'l*, 2009 WL 2424333 at \*20 (E.D.N.Y. 2009).

18. Claimant reserves all rights under Rule 9014 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, including, but not limited to, all rights of discovery.

19. Claimant reserves the right to amend, alter, revise, or supplement this Objection; any failure to object on a particular procedural or substantive ground shall not be deemed a waiver of any such rights, all of which are hereby reserved.

20. In the event that the Court does not allow Claimant's claim as a "customer" claim, it should nevertheless allow Claimant's claim as a general unsecured creditor claim.

#### **RELIEF REQUESTED**

21. For the reasons set forth herein, the Court should find Claimant is a "customer" within the definition of 15 U.S.C. § 7811(2).

22. For the reasons set forth herein, the Court should overrule the Trustee's determination and find that Claimant should have its claims allowed in full to the extent covered by SIPC.

23. In the event that the Court does not allow Claimant's claim as a customer claim, it should nevertheless allow the claim as a general unsecured creditor claim.

24. For the reasons set forth herein, the Court should direct the SIPC to issue immediate payment to Claimant in the amount of \$250,000.00, plus interest from the date of claim.

25. To the extent applicable, Claimant joins the in the objections of those other claimants similarly situated, and request such further relief as this Court shall deem fair and equitable.

Dated: January 5, 2010

*Ronald Barsanti Trustee*  
*Ronald Barsanti Revocable Trust*  
Ronald Barsanti Revocable Trust

DECEMBER 11, 2008<sup>1</sup>

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S DETERMINATION OF CLAIM**

December 8, 2009

RONALD P. BARSANTI REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST  
1295 LANDS END ROAD  
POINT MANALAPAN, FL 33462

Dear RONALD P. BARSANTI REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST:

**PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY.**

The liquidation of the business of BERNARD L. MADOFF INVESTMENT SECURITIES LLC ("BLMIS") is being conducted by Irving H. Picard, Trustee under the Securities Investor Protection Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78aaa *et seq.* ("SIPA"), pursuant to an order entered on December 15, 2008 by the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

The Trustee has made the following determination regarding your claim designated as Claim No. 006402:

Based on a review of available books and records of BLMIS by the Trustee's staff, you did not have an account with BLMIS. Because you did not have an account, you are not a customer of BLMIS under SIPA as that term is defined at 15 U.S.C. § 78fff (2). Accordingly, your Claim for securities and/or a credit balance is **DENIED**.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:** If you disagree with this determination and desire a hearing before Bankruptcy Judge Burton R. Lifland, you **MUST** file your written opposition, setting forth the grounds for your disagreement, referencing Bankruptcy Case No. 08-1789 (BRL) and attaching copies of any documents in support of your position, with the United States Bankruptcy Court **and** the Trustee within **THIRTY DAYS** after December 8, 2009, the date on which the Trustee mailed this notice.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 78fff(7)(B) of SIPA states that the filing date is "the date on which an application for a protective decree is filed under 78eee(a)(3)," except where the debtor is the subject of a proceeding pending before a United States court "in which a receiver, trustee, or liquidator for such debtor has been appointed and such proceeding was commenced before the date on which such application was filed, the term 'filing date' means the date on which such proceeding was commenced." Section 78fff(7)(B). Thus, even though the Application for a protective decree was filed on December 15, 2008, the Filing Date in this action is on December 11, 2008.



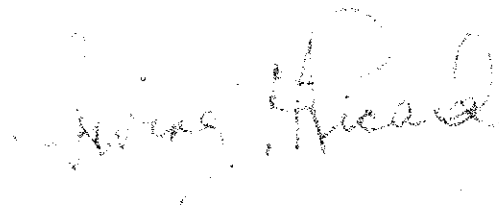
**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE:** If you properly and timely file a written opposition, a hearing date for this controversy will be obtained by the Trustee and you will be notified of that hearing date. Your failure to appear personally or through counsel at such hearing will result in the Trustee's determination with respect to your claim being confirmed by the Court and binding on you.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE:** You must mail your opposition, if any, in accordance with the above procedure, to each of the following addresses:

Clerk of the United States Bankruptcy Court for  
the Southern District of New York  
One Bowling Green  
New York, New York 10004

and

Irving H. Picard, Trustee  
c/o Baker & Hostetler LLP  
Attn: Claims Department  
45 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10111



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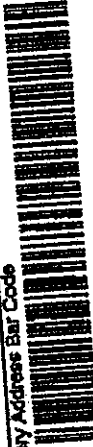
**Irving H. Picard**

Trustee for the Liquidation of the Business of  
Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC

Page 1 of 1

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Express



From: Origin: LNA4 (773) 344-9000  
Mr. Ronald Barzani

1285 Lends End Rd.

Point Manassas, FL 32462

BILL SENDER

SHIP TO: (773) 344-9000

Irving H. Picard  
Baker & Hostetler LLP  
45 ROCKEFELLER PLZ

NEW YORK, NY 10111

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